

Rio Puerco Mine

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EPA Region 6

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Rio Puerco ASPECT Flight Background

- Flight Proposal \ Navajo EPA Coordination - September 2016
- To'hajilee Chapter Outreach and Site Visit – September 2016
- ASPECT Flight – October 2016
- Report Out of Initial Results – December 2016 Tronox Multi-Agency Meeting
- Final Report Submitted to EPA – February 2017



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6



Abandoned Uranium Mines
In the Grants Mining District

1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202 | September 2016

U.S. EPA to Perform Aerial Radiation and Imagery Survey of Rio Puerco Uranium Mine Areas

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) from the Region 6 office in Dallas, TX, will be sending a team to perform an aerial radiation and imagery survey of the Rio Puerco Uranium Mine Area in Sandoval County, NM. Included in the survey area will be the northern portion of the To'hajilee Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

The survey will be performed by a white and blue low-flying USEPA airplane with a single engine prop. The planned survey dates are October 5 and 6. October 7 is an optional day if weather should prevent the flight from occurring on October 5 or 6.


The purpose of this survey is to identify potential additional radiation coming from the Rio Puerco Uranium Mine Area. The survey will also assist USEPA and Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA) prioritize areas for additional environmental assessment activities.

After this assessment stage, USEPA will work with the community and NNEPA to evaluate the risks and options to address the mine waste material.

The mine itself is located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). All future work will be closely coordinated with the BLM as the lead federal agency.

Keeping the To'hajilee Chapter Informed

USEPA and NNEPA will inform the To'hajilee Chapter community of the results of this initial aerial radiation and imagery survey including any follow-up actions that may be recommended.



Who to Contact If You Have Questions or Concerns


Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding the abandoned uranium mines or the USEPA and NNEPA activities:

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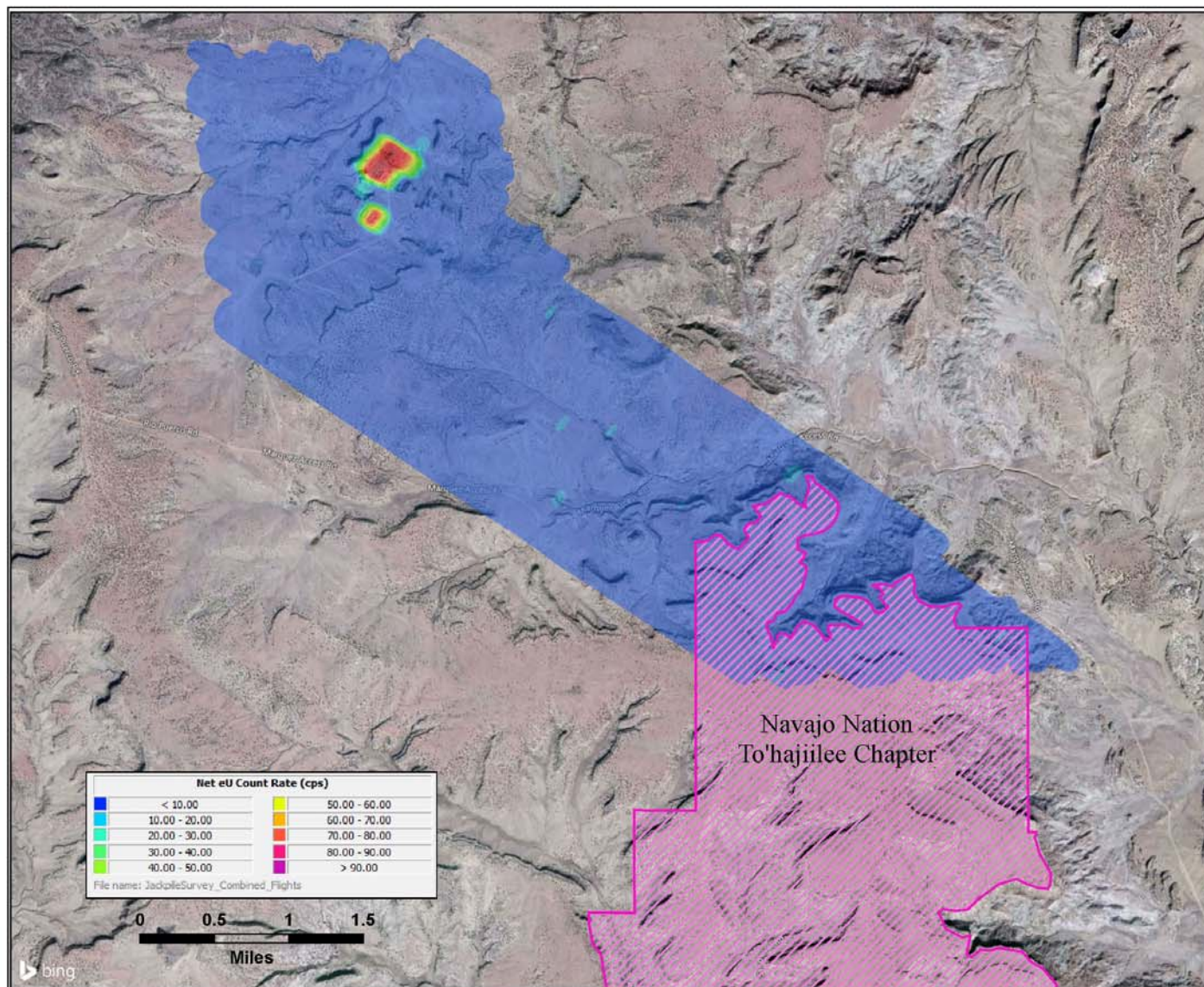
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ASPECT Flight Results

- Aerial Assessment Suggests elevated levels of Uranium around the mine shaft and at the retention ponds
- Aerial Assessment suggests no migration of contamination towards To'hajillee Chapter

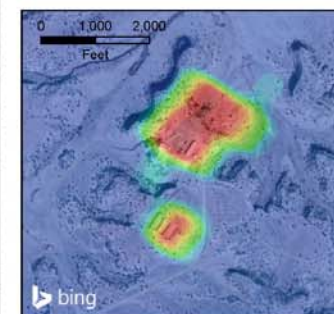
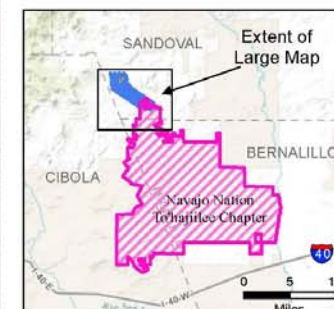




To'hajiilee Chapter of Navajo Nation & ASPECT Net eU Count Rate (cps)

Sandoval, Bernalillo and Cibola Counties, NM

To'hajiilee Chapter



Sources:
Navajo Nation BIA 2015. Bing Maps.
EPA R6 Superfund & ASPECT 2016.
MMD Abandoned Uranium Mines 2008.



EPA Region 6
Superfund
GIS Support
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